Here is some general information about colon polyps:

- It is general practice to remove all polyps that are found during a colonoscopy – small and large.
- Most polyps are small (pea size or smaller). Cancer is almost never found in small polyps.
- It has been suggested to NOT remove small polyps and to only remove larger polyps. Leaving small polyps may also reduce the risk of complications.
- Not removing small polyps is already part of newer screening tests. These tests ignore small polyps when found (CT colonography, colon capsule).
- Most colonoscopy doctors would agree to not remove small polyps if this was supported by their professional organization.

Here are possible **PROS and CONs** of removing or not removing small polyps:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>REMOVE small polyps</strong></th>
<th><strong>NOT REMOVE small polyps</strong></th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer risk in small polyps</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Very low (approximately 4 in 10,000)</td>
<td>2500 small polyps would need to be removed to find one cancer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complications of colonoscopy</td>
<td>Increased risk (Removing polyps more than doubles the risk of severe complications)</td>
<td>Lower risk</td>
<td>Severe complications during colonoscopy:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bleeding: 2 in 1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bowel perforation: 7 in 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Death: 1 in 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure time</td>
<td>Increased</td>
<td>Decreased</td>
<td>The difference is small. It takes 1-2 minutes to remove a small polyp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future care</td>
<td>More frequent colonoscopies. Patients are considered “at risk” if small polyps are found.</td>
<td>Less frequent colonoscopies. Patients are considered only “at risk” if also large polyps are found.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society/Health care</td>
<td>Very expensive</td>
<td>Substantial cost savings</td>
<td>Not removing small polyps may save billions of $ in health care cost related to less tissue processing of these lesions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix e1 Information supplied to patients about the risks and benefits of deferring diminutive polypectomy and the survey questions used.

Here is the chance of finding cancer in a small polyp compared to other risks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related to having a colonoscopy:</th>
<th>Related to lifetime risks:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finding cancer in a small polyp</td>
<td>Being struck by lightning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding cancer in a medium polyp</td>
<td>Having identical twins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding cancer in a large polyp</td>
<td>Dying in a car crash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perforation during a colonoscopy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death during colonoscopy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.4 in 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 in 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.7 in 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt; 0.1 in 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 in 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 in 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 in 1,000</td>
<td>70 in 1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Small Polyp Survey

This survey is about your opinion about removing or not removing small polyps found during a colonoscopy (less than 1/4 inch or pea size). Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Age ______

Male ☐  Female ☐

Have you had a colonoscopy before? ☐ YES  ☐ NO

If YES, did you have any polyps in your colon? ☐ YES  ☐ NO  ☐ Don’t know

Has anyone in your family had colon cancer? ☐ YES  ☐ NO  ☐ Don’t know

If YES, who? ______________________

We would like to know your opinion on the risk of cancer in a small polyp.

1) Do you think the chance of finding cancer in a small polyp is... (check one)

☐ ...Very high
☐ ...High
☐ ...Medium
☐ ...Low
☐ ...Very Low
☐ ...Don’t know

2) Consider your chance of having cancer in a small polyp compared to a having a complication during a colonoscopy. Do you think the chance of finding cancer in a small polyp is... (check one)

☐ ...Greater than having a complication during a colonoscopy
☐ ...About the same as having a complication during a colonoscopy
☐ ...Lower than having a complication during a colonoscopy
Appendix e1 Information supplied to patients about the risks and benefits of deferring diminutive polypectomy and the survey questions used.

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We would like to know whether you would consider to being part of a study where we would not remove small polyps unless they grow. (This is just in theory, and your opinion will not change what we are doing today.)

You would have a repeat colonoscopy after 3 to 5 years based on the number of polyps (similar to what would happen if you did not participate in such study).

Would you consider participating in a study where small benign appearing polyps are not removed?

☐ Definitely NOT
☐ Probably NOT
☐ Probably YES
☐ Definitely YES

What are your concerns with not removing small polyps? (check all that apply)

☐ I don’t have any concerns.
☐ I am concerned that a small polyp may contain cancer or progress to cancer that cannot be cured when found.
☐ I have a family member with colon cancer and I think I have a higher risk of getting it.
☐ I have a friend who had/has colon cancer, and I am too concerned getting it.
☐ I do not want to participate in a research study.
☐ Other, explain: ____________________________

Outside of a study - would you allow your colonoscopist to leave benign appearing small polyps, and only remove them if they grow?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ Don’t know

What is your approximate household income?

☐ $25,000 per year
☐ Between $25,000 and $50,000 per year
☐ Between $50,000 and $75,000 per year
☐ More than $75,000 per year

What is the highest level of education you have finished?

☐ Some high school
☐ High school graduate or equivalent
☐ Some college
☐ College degree
☐ Professional degree/Masters/PhD

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You are done with the survey!
Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!